

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of December 16, 2003, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 11-17 and 25-31 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-10 and 18-24 have been cancelled in this paper.

Allowable Subject Matter:

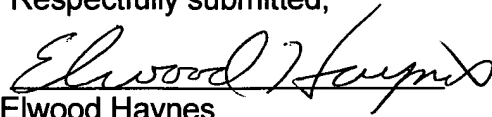
The Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 11-17 and 25-31 are free of the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this application, she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Registration No. P 55,254

Date: March 8, 2004
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Application No. 09/764,424
Amendment dated March 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this
8th day of March, 2004.



Stacy Forte